

The Honourable Jake Epp,
Minister of Health and Welfare,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

8 July 1985

Dear Mr. Epp,

I must say I continue to be disgusted by the response from your department to our many requests for help for people with environmental illness. As we have informed your office many times, there are several thousand people in Canada with this problem who are not receiving health care under Medicare, although they are required to pay for the program in premiums and taxes.

In case you're not yet familiar with your responsibilities, it is your direct concern as a federal minister, as the top publicly elected health official in the country, to actually do something.

Some of us have died. Some have committed suicide. All are having a very difficult time financially. Few are receiving proper health care.

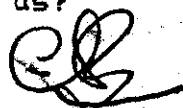
Experts within your department know well of our existence. I've spoken with perhaps fifty of your departmental staff to see what could be done. All say they are aware of the problem, but that it is not part of their section's mandate to help us.

When we've approached the minister's office over the past year, we've been referred back to these staff members who do not have the power to do anything, as you very well know, and as was known or should have been known by the people referring us from your office.

Your stalling is resulting in severe suffering, the nature of which your office has never expressed an interest in knowing. If you knew about it and cared you might wonder why we haven't started setting bombs.

If you continue to assert that you have no responsibility to help us get what we should have a right to, I can only suggest you have neither professional ethics or personal morals.

I ask you again, if only for the record: How will you help us?


Chris Brown,
4-190 Powell Ave.,
Ottawa.

cc. Susan Wright, Minister's Office
Globe and Mail
Ottawa Citizen
Maclean's Magazine